GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:521
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
CONSTRUCTION OF UNIQUE BUTTERFLY PARK
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bioresource Development Board under the Department of Biotechnology hasbeen constructing unique butterfly park in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) : Yes Sir.

(b) : As part of bioresource development, the project comprises - a butterfly park per se; a research and training and education component. The butterfly park would be located on a plot of 8 acres. The centerpiece will be a display area of about 1400m2 with host plants, artificial feed and flowing water. Live butterflies would be bred as per seasonal availability, and displayed for viewing. In order to facilitate the breeding, there will a butterfly rearing house as well as plant-rearing houses. There will also be working computer models of butterfly parts, and displays depicting their spread in nature. A beautifully landscaped garden with a `butterfly walk` is planned to be developed. The park would be maintained by the Zoo Authority of Karnataka, which is also the coordinator of the project.

The major research objectives of the project are development of a digitized database and distribution maps of butterflies and their host plants of Peninsular India; study of the community ecology of butterflies; and DNA fingerprinting and molecular phylogeny of butterflies. This component would be spearheaded by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

In order to build awareness among the students, teachers and lay persons on the role of biodiversity and bioresources in general, and butterflies in particular, training and education programmes will be conducted on a regular basis. This component would be handled by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore.

(c) : The total project cost is Rs.381.25 lakhs over a period of five years. This includes a contribution of Rs.321.25 lakhs from DBT and Rs.60.00 lakhs from the Government of Karnataka.